

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS THIS YEAR.

From the N. Y. World.

If the Democratic party makes no mistakes in the issues it presents, it may easily elect a majority of the next Congress. The recent election encourages us to hope that we can choose almost the entire delegation from this State. We may entertain the same hope respecting the fifteen Southern States. In the four which have not been "reconstructed" this result may be regarded as certain; and the reconstructed States will have a liberty of action which they have not enjoyed since the close of the war. The bayonets by which they were overawed in the first elections under their new constitutions have been withdrawn; the Freedmen's Bureau no longer exists as a vast engine for controlling the negro vote; and a little strategy and energy will enable the Democratic party of the South to carry almost every Congressional district. The Southern whites always excelled as politicians, and they will probably have no difficulty in managing the new element which has been introduced into their voting population. In the Southern cities, where the negroes can be reached by the Republican electioneering agents, the colored vote may be controlled by the Radicals and carpet-baggers; but the greater part of the negroes are agriculturists and laborers, living on plantations, and inaccessible to Radical influence. The ascendancy which belongs to property, intelligence, and social standing is all on the Democratic side. The mass of negroes in the Southern States, like the mass of white votes everywhere, will follow political leaders; and if the capable, knowing negroes, who are looked up to by their race, are enlisted on the right side by kindness and persuasion, the flock will follow the bell-wethers. The Democratic party will gain new members in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and all the larger States, and with scattered gains elsewhere, we shall control the next House of Representatives. With so fair a prospect of success, the party should exert all its energy.

The Congress which is elected in the middle of a Presidential term has a superadded importance from the duty that may devolve upon it of electing the next President. If more than two candidates are run, and none of them receives a clear majority of all the electoral votes, the President is chosen by the House of Representatives. Judging from present indications, the Congressional elections of this year will be of no importance in that respect. There is no reason for supposing that there will be more than two parties in the next Presidential canvass. There will be no division or bolting in the Democratic party; and the Republican party is not likely to split when its opponents are formidable enough to task its whole strength. When it has little chance of success if united, neither of the segments into which it might be cleft could have any hope of a separate triumph. The Republican party has outlived the issues on which it was founded; but it has nevertheless too many advantages to disband and dissolve. No political party ever acknowledged that its principles were out of date, until after the people had taught it that lesson at an election. The Republicans have a permanent majority of the Supreme Court; and they control the vast patronage of the Federal Government. A party thus entrenched will never disband until after a prostrating defeat in a Presidential election. Too strong to disband and not strong enough to split without ruin, the Republican party will present a united front in the next national contest, and the Democratic party will be equally united. If this expectation be well founded, the next House of Representatives will have nothing to do with the choice of a President; and in this view, the Congressional elections of the coming autumn have no importance.

But they are of the highest consequence to the Democratic party as a great preliminary step towards gaining control of the Federal Government. If we choose a majority of the next House, the Presidential election will be virtually decided in advance. The moral effect of such a victory would be prodigious. It would demonstrate to the people that there was no longer any vitality in the old issues, and that the only remaining bond of union among the Republicans was "the cohesive force of public plunder."

In our judgment, the only thing which can imperil our success would be a consent by the Democratic party to fight over the old battles on the old ground, and thus give the Republicans the advantage of rallying their party around a negro question. They have always found that issue potent enough to stir the passions and rouse the fanaticism of their followers; and there is nothing which they so eagerly court as a plausible pretext for inflaming the public mind again about the rights of the negro. The Democracy, unless they are willing to remain in a minority, must not furnish their opponents with a flail for thrashing over the old straw.

The contest must be a very aggressive one, and conducted mainly by assaults on the incapacity and ineffectuality of the present Republican Congress. This Congress has done nothing to relieve the country. Our shipping interest has been prostrate since the war, and Congress has taken no steps to restore it. Even Mr. Lynch's futile bill, the only measure of pretended relief which has been brought forward, was finally shelved on Tuesday, and that great interest, once the pride and boast of the country, the source of its commercial and naval greatness, is left languishing out of existence. The tariff has been dangled over and discussed for a whole session, and the very bad bill concocted by Mr. Schenck has been consigned to "the tomb of the Capulets." The odious income tax, against which the whole country protests, has not been repealed. There has been a great flourish about refunding the debt at a lower interest; but it will either result in nothing, or the adoption of a quixotic and chimerical scheme which will be the laughing-stock of sound financiers. On the important subject of the currency nothing has been done, or is likely to be done, by this imbecile Congress. The people are discontented and impatient, and it would be easy to outstep these imbeciles, if we do not permit them to drown criticism by a new hullabaloo on the everlasting rights of the negro. Pray, let us have the good sense to drop that subject out of politics.

THE REPUBLICAN CRISIS.

From the N. Y. Times.

The condition and prospects of the Republican party in this State and city have lately been the subject of much discussion on the part of friends and enemies. The latter have treated us to many taunts which do not call for much reply, many taunts which

commendations which are intended to aggravate the evil they are ostensibly designed to remove. The friends of the party, on the other hand, seem to be at a loss to know what course to take in order to recover that ascendancy which there is some danger of our losing; but which we certainly ought not to have lost for at least fifteen years to come. We had everything our own way. Never was a party stronger with the nation at large. How, then, does it happen that despondency and demoralization have crept into the Republican ranks?

In the first place, we are unquestionably suffering from that reaction in public feeling which always follows the close of a great contest. What gave the Republican party strength was the great cause of which it constituted itself the champion. When that cause was no longer in jeopardy, the excitement of the people cooled down, and many thousands of our supporters ceased to take an interest in what they regarded, and justly, as minor struggles. The leaders of the party ought everywhere to have attempted to counteract this pathy by associating themselves with a new policy which should at least attract the sympathies, if it did not arouse the enthusiasm, of the rank and file. We wanted, for instance, a financial policy such as was reasonably likely to be acceptable to the majority. It was not impossible to have devised such a policy. But what might have been made a source of strength was turned into a source of weakness, and to-day there is nothing worthy to be called a financial policy identified with the party.

But it is not only with regard to principles that mistakes have been committed, but the fatal errors have been committed with reference to men. The convulsions of the war threw a number of leaders to the surface who were ill-fitted to guide the party to steady and lasting victory. Conservatism counsels were made almost an object of abhorrence. Men who ventured to offer them were treated with every indignity—their motives were misrepresented, their aims maligned, their reputations cruelly assailed. They were "read out" of the party, and most of them have since been in political exile. Now there is no party which can safely ignore the elements as these. Moderate ideas may be at a discount in a time of tumult, but when the agitation has passed away, the moderate men may, and ought to be, made a tower of strength. At present the party is still trying to get on without them. The extreme leaders will listen to no suggestions—not even on questions of finance. Was not Mr. Dawes threatened with expulsion because he protested against extravagant expenditures, and called for a reduction of taxation?

A single section of the party is trying to manage the politics of the State, and almost all of the whole country; and the result we already see before us. Has not this section had a very fair trial? Are we to go on trusting blindly to it, until next November sees us covered with a disaster which will involve us in disgrace? The injudicious course of the ultra leaders ruined the State Constitutional Convention. The same mistakes would now ruin everything. There is no longer a great exciting cause to lead the people to rally around almost any leaders. We cannot expect the ordinary citizen to take so absorbing an interest in the measure for enforcing the fifteenth amendment as he did in the success of the amendment itself. While it was uncertain whether or not the Southern States would accept the results of the war, everybody was disposed to stick closely to the party which had carried that war to a triumphant conclusion. But now there is no uncertainty on the subject. All the States save one are fully "restored," and it is no source of strength to the Republicans that they still deprive one State of its just privileges. We cannot get any more fire out of the extinct embers. We must have a policy—a wise, consistent, broad, and enlightened policy, and men of conservative opinions, long placed under a ban, must be recalled to assist in carrying it out. Men who possess vast administrative and organizing powers are not easily found. Even if they could be found, their treatment is not quite sure to be of the most generous description. But we can certainly do better than trust our interests to doctrinaires whose opinions on all great questions are as variable as the wind, and who are more intent upon selfish aims than upon the welfare of a nation or the glory of a great party. Let us have the State Convention called at an early day, and let us see if we cannot once more appear before the people with a policy which will command their support, and with men who are capable of inspiring their followers with that earnestness and zeal which can alone achieve memorable results.

RIVAL SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROADS.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The proposition of a railway on the thirty-second parallel of latitude has been before the public in various shapes for twenty years, and yet the enterprise is still struggling desperately for existence. Then Texas was the only State of all the Gulf region to whose prosperity the completion of the road is of almost vital importance, which gave it the least encouragement. Louisiana was cold because New Orleans was passed by, and Arkansas offended because Memphis was aimed at. But so earnest was Texas in its wish to see the line built that its several Legislatures under Rebel and loyal rule affirmed and reaffirmed the grant of lands made to the road in 1856. California on the Pacific Coast, desirous of making the port of San Diego the western terminus of the line, chartered and aided the partial construction of another line. The Texas route is the Memphis and El Paso line; the California route is usually called the San Diego and Fort Yuma road. Of the former more than fifty miles are graded, and twenty-three miles laid with rails. Of the latter we know that work is in progress. Without doubt the two lines have more of finished work, larger land grants, and better prospects of being eventually completed than any other Southern Pacific railway. These two roads are under the control of General John C. Fremont, and he has asked Congress to consolidate, charter, and aid them under the title of "Southern Transcontinental Railway."

The Senate Committee on the Pacific Railways has not reported adversely to this proposition, but has proposed to authorize an entirely new line, to be called the Texas Pacific Railroad, with branches and connections; and the bill makes large land grants. But the new line has certain grave objectionable features to which we wish to direct the special attention of the Gulf States delegations in Congress. Texas, in the first place, can give no aid to the new road, because her land grants are vested in the old line. The Senate committee claims otherwise, we are aware, but these grants have been repeatedly declared valid in the Texas Legislature, before, during, and since the war. The burden of proof conclusively shows that the right to make grants to other roads over the same route has not reverted, as the committee claim, to the State of

Texas. At any rate, such right, if claimed, will be contested, and the first step of any new company which Congress may charter will carry it deep into litigation, and cripple and retard both enterprises for years.

Further, the proposed line is not such a one as the South needs. Its eastern terminus will be New Orleans on the Gulf, instead of some Southern port on the Atlantic. It is not to be uniform in gauge with the roads of the Southern system, which, without exception, are five feet wide, while the Texas Pacific road gauge is fixed by the bill at four feet eight and a half inches. The evident design of all this is to build up New Orleans by compelling the "breaking of freight in bulk" at that terminus, and will please none but the Senators from Louisiana and Arkansas. The Memphis and El Paso road, on the other hand, connects at the former city with the Southern system, and has unbroken and direct communication with the Atlantic coast through the heart of the Southern States. These facts should teach Congress the need of changing the grade of the Texas Pacific road, or of defeating the bill altogether. Other facts which we have cited in this and previous articles urge, with equal force, the economy and importance of encouraging the partly finished "Southern Transcontinental Road." The bill favoring the latter road is still pending in the Senate, and we hope is soon to be passed.

MOVEMENTS OF THE FENIANS—A PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT.

From the N. Y. Herald.

There is not a veritable Fenian operation against the peace and sovereignty of the New Dominion on foot, there is certainly a great deal of hurrying in the woods and marching and countermarching in the telegraphic reports. From Buffalo is reported "great activity during the last forty-eight hours," "large bodies of drilled veterans," and five car loads of these are reported in a later despatch as moving from Buffalo through Rochester for some point further east, from which it is conjectured they are to approach the frontier. Albany is full of the same explosive fellows. They are heard of in Auburn as well as in more conclusive still of the earnest intention of these valiant souls to free Ireland that can be found on Canadian soil—the Government at Washington has received information sufficient to warrant the President in issuing his proclamation warning the Fenians of the illegality of their purpose. So long as the proclamation is unaccompanied by the general movement of United States troops and an indiscriminate arrest of every suspected person bearing arms, however, it will not avail much, and the invaders, if the necessity occurs and they are direct, may even be enabled to get into the enemy's country by dodging the troops sent to prevent them. Here, then, is apparently the fact of a Fenian operation fairly before us, and the further fact that the persons in charge are putting forward material that can hold its tongue and stand fire. Speculations on the possibilities of such a movement may, therefore, be well spared, since it will certainly not be many days, perhaps hours, before these fellows will be heard of as in more or less blood on the other side of the line. From the widely different points at which the movement simultaneously appears, it seems to be intended to throw parties across the frontier in a way to baffle all possible vigilance on the other side and on this side also. Invasion in this way is easy enough, but the concentration in the enemy's country of these isolated parties may prove to be quite another matter if the Canadian authorities are not stampeded by the first alarm and act at the right moment with discreet energy. If it shall ever happen, however, that two or three thousand of the reckless and resolute rascals who probably make up these parties are concentrated on Canadian soil, under a leader of only average skill, we do not see why the world might not be indulged with the spectacle of a real Fenian war on a more or less bloody scale. Until the war really comes, however, and in view of the past history of Fenian movements, we are at present only authorized in concluding that the Fenian treasury is empty, and that the leaders feel convinced that "something must be done" to fill it.

OUR NAVY SERVING SPAIN—A CUBAN PRIVATEER SAILING FROM ENGLAND.

From the N. Y. Sun.

The United States Navy, since the incoming of the present administration, may have been the admiration of foreign nations, but, unless that be its essential object, it has been utterly useless for any good purpose. Admiral Hoff, after the murder of Wyeth and Spekman, visited Santiago de Cuba, and obtained a promise from the Government to send a squadron to the coast of Texas in his district without trial. But more Americans were subsequently murdered, and Consul Phillips, reporting the facts, was forced to flee from Santiago for his life. Admiral Poor was sent to inquire into the matter of Consul Phillips' compulsory flight, and was afraid to go ashore with him. It is useless to mince words; these are facts. For the last four months the chief duty of the United States fleet in the West Indies has been to guard the life of an unprincipled traitor in San Domingo, who is endeavoring to enrich himself by selling his country to more American ships than he can count. At the same time, in home waters and since the cessation of ministerial summer cruises, the whole duty of our navy has been coast-guard duty in the service of Spain. The climax was reached on Tuesday. The country had long since accepted the fact, of course with indignation, that the Spanish Minister could order our vessels about where he might please. But it was not prepared for the knowledge that this branch of our service—once our national pride—had been placed at the disposal of a private and active force of the city. Such, however, is the unpleasant fact. Mr. Allan Pinkerton has replaced Secretary Robeson. This smart Spanish employe trumps up a story that a vessel, properly cleared from this port for Port-au-Prince, was in reality a Cuban privateer, and at once every United States vessel in all the navy yards from here to Maine is furnished him for his capture. His remuneration is probably not dependent on his success; and with such aid at his command, he ought to drive a thriving business. We call his—not Secretary Fish's—attention to the fact that on the 3d instant a well-armed and well-manned Cuban privateer cleared from Liverpool, where she was built, for Japan, and is now at sea. She is a swift

and effective steamer, commanded by a man well known to New Yorkers and to Spaniards. We have not heard that the English Government has sent any vessels after her, or that Spain has requested them to do so.

Here is a chance for Detective Pinkerton. In pursuit of such a prize he could unquestionably rely upon being allowed to use the whole United States navy.

What the country may think of Mr. Pinkerton's great power in our Government is, of course, another matter.

THE DRAMATIC AIR.

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

The Board of Health has had under consideration the subject of ventilation in the city prisons. This is proper, for they who there have no choice, and it seems cruel to add the destruction of their health by poisoned air to their other penalty. But we venture to say that there is not a prison in the city whose air it is not as sweet as mountain zephyrs compared with that of our two theatres, the National and Wood's. Either of these places deserve to be abated as dangerous to the public health. This is no unfounded contingency; for in the time of the great Mrs. Siddons, during a season at Dublin in which the theatre was crowded, a very fatal epidemic fever broke out which was by general consent charged to the poisoned air of the theatre.

The common practice at these two theatres is to shut the audience up without any opening for the admission of fresh air, to breathe their own exhalations over and over. The gas lights alone would consume the vital properties of the air in a few minutes. Besides all the repulsive sense of nastiness, physical pain and discomfort, the audience, under ordinary circumstances, such hot nights as we have had during the last week do force open some of the windows, but this is done only in such hot weather as makes all resorts unavailing. But unless the weather is hot, these cannot be opened because of the cold draught upon those who sit near them. And besides, there is no one about these theatres who attends to this, or makes any use of such shabby means of relief as they have, or who thinks he has any concern with the comfort of the audience. And such windows as they have are allowed to be barred up or become impracticable. In cold weather the hot air from the furnaces is passed in, to be breathed over by hundreds of persons for hours, and consumed by hundreds of gas lights, without any opening for the escape of foulness or the admission of fresh air.

One cause of the low state to which dramatic performances have sunk in this city is in this disregard by the managers of the comfort and decency of their theatres. They treat their audiences as if they were enemies whom they desired to punish for attending, by making them as uncomfortable as possible. People accustomed to comfortable apartments and decent air will not attend such theatres except upon some extra attraction, and then once suffices for a season. If this is skillful management of a theatre, then it is a business that requires none of the intelligence that is needed for success in other affairs. It drives away the respectable part of the community, and then reduces its performances to the shabbiest scale upon the plea that the community does not support respectable playings.

If there is any truth in what every decent person experiences of the need of fresh air to life; if there is any truth in what physicians and scientific men tell us of the quantity of fresh air needed to supply the consumption of the lungs, and of the poisonous properties of air that has been breathed over, and impregnated with all exhalations from human bodies, these places are most potent generators of disease, and ought to be abated by the authorities. If the audience could see all the nastiness that they are compelled to breathe over and over at these places, they would resent the imposition practised upon them by stopping the performance until the manager had repaired his insulting disregard of their decency and comfort.

There is not a respectable citizen that has attended our theatres who will not fully subscribe to this as a moderate statement of this imposition. But the complaint has often been made in the public press, and without avail. And so it will be in this case. The managers will say it is an uncomfortable theatre. Perhaps they will withdraw their advertisements. Then they will shut up their stinking den, the tighter, both to show their defiance and to have satisfaction out of their audiences. A wealthy manager in this city did this once, and succeeded in keeping an elegant and spacious theatre a very unwholesome place. But we are telling them of that which ruins their business and makes their theatres disreputable, and of a thing which can be remedied to a considerable extent by a little inexpensive attention, and which, if remedied, will do more to increase their business than a thousand times the expense or effort directed in any other line of attraction.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY, TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT. Philadelphia, Pa., May 9, 1870. NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The Board of Directors have this day declared a semi-annual Dividend of FIVE PER CENT. on the Capital Stock of the Company, clear of National and State Taxes, payable in cash on and after May 30, 1870. Blank Powers of Attorney for collecting Dividends can be had at the Office of the Company, No. 238 South Third Street.

The Office will be opened at 8 A. M. and closed at 3 P. M. from May 20 to June 2, for the payment of Dividends, and after that date from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M. THOMAS T. FIFTH, Treasurer.

NOTICE.—A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE PHILADELPHIA, GERMAN TOWN, AND CHRISTIANTOWN RAILROAD COMPANY.

The Board of Directors of the Philadelphia, Germantown, and Christianstown Railroad Company, to be held in the Room No. 34, PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE, on THURSDAY, the 26th day of June next, at 12 o'clock M., for the consideration of an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An act to authorize the Philadelphia, Germantown, and Norristown Railroad Company to increase its Capital Stock," approved the 20th day of March, 1870. By order of the Board of Managers. J. B. GIBERTY, Secretary.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, IN accordance with the provisions of the existing acts of Assembly, that a meeting of the commissioners named in an act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the PROTECTIVE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY," to be located in the city of Philadelphia," approved the 18th day of April, A. D. 1850, and to be held on the 30th day of April, A. D. 1870, will be held at 12 o'clock P. M. on the 15th day of June, A. D. 1870, at No. 122 S. SEVENTH Street, Philadelphia, where the books for subscription to the capital stock will be opened and the other action taken requisite to complete the organization. 5 1/2 m

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, IN accordance with the provisions of the existing acts of Assembly, that a meeting of the commissioners named in an act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the MOVING AND STORAGE COMPANY," to be located in the city of Philadelphia," approved the 18th day of April, A. D. 1850, and to be held on the 30th day of April, A. D. 1870, will be held at 12 o'clock P. M. on the 15th day of June, A. D. 1870, at No. 122 S. SEVENTH Street, Philadelphia, where the books for subscription to the capital stock will be opened and the other action taken requisite to complete the organization. 5 1/2 m

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF ORES AND ORE CANAL, IN accordance with the provisions of the existing acts of Assembly, that a meeting of the commissioners named in an act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the ORES AND ORE CANAL COMPANY," to be located in the city of Philadelphia," approved the 18th day of April, A. D. 1850, and to be held on the 30th day of April, A. D. 1870, will be held at 12 o'clock P. M. on the 15th day of June, A. D. 1870, at No. 122 S. SEVENTH Street, Philadelphia, where the books for subscription to the capital stock will be opened and the other action taken requisite to complete the organization. 5 1/2 m

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THE HYPERION HAIR CURLERS. AN INDISPENSABLE ARTICLE FOR THE LADIES (Patented July 9, 1867.)

This Curler is the most perfect invention ever offered to the public. It is easily operated, never in appearance, and will not injure the hair, as there is no heat required, nor any metallic substance used to rust or break the hair. Manufactured only, and for sale wholesale and retail, by

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LUMBER.

1870. SPRUCE JOIST. SPRUCE JOIST. HEMLOCK. HEMLOCK. 1870

1870. SEASONED CLEAR PINE. SEASONED CLEAR PINE. CHOICE PATTERN PINE. SPANISH CEDAR. FOR PATTERNS. RED CEDAR. 1870

1870. FLORIDA FLOORING. FLORIDA FLOORING. CAROLINA FLOORING. VIRGINIA FLOORING. DELAWARE FLOORING. ASH FLOORING. WALNUT FLOORING. FLORIDA STEEP BORDS. RAIL PLANK. 1870

1870. WALNUT BOARDS AND PLANK. WALNUT BOARDS AND PLANK. WALNUT BOARDS. WALNUT PLANK. 1870

1870. UNDERTAKERS' LUMBER. UNDERTAKERS' LUMBER. RED CEDAR. WALNUT AND PINE. 1870

1870. SEASONED POPLAR. SEASONED CHERRY. WHITE OAK PLANK AND BOARDS. HICKORY. 1870

1870. CIGAR BOX MAKERS' CIGAR BOX MAKERS' SPANISH CEDAR BOX BOARDS. FOR SALE LOW. 1870

1870. CAROLINA SCANTLING. CAROLINA H. T. STILLS. NOW AWAY. 1870

1870. CEDAR SHINGLES. CEDAR SHINGLES. MAULE, BROTHER & CO., No. 2600 SOUTH STREET. 1870